

**SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AVIATION ISSUES
VIA LINDA SENIOR CENTER – ROOM 8
10440 E. VIA LINDA**

FEBRUARY 18, 2004

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councilman Wayne Ecton
Councilman Bob Littlefield

STAFF: Scott Gray, Aviation Director
Gary Mascaro, Assistant Aviation Director
Jennifer Lewis, Aviation Planner
Mary O'Connor, Transportation General Manager
Steve Olson, Intergovernmental Relations Director

OTHER(S): Mrs. Ecton
Mrs. Littlefield

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

Item 1 – Approval of the Minutes of the November 19th Meeting

Councilman Ecton indicated a spelling correction to be made on page 3 of the minutes. Councilman Littlefield made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19th meeting. Councilman Ecton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Scott Gray introduced Ms. Mary O'Connor who replaced Mr. John Little as General Manager of Transportation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 2 – Mission of the Subcommittee

Mr. Gray stated there has been some public confusion as to what topics are going to be covered either by the Airport Advisory Commission or this Subcommittee. Mr. Gray stated that from an original list of 30 items, they narrowed it down to focus on topics such as the pilot/community outreach program, the contract tower program, the radar issue, and the Part 150 and Part 161 studies.

Mr. Gray added the public is not sure if they should bring their noise issues to the Commission or to the Subcommittee. Mr. Gray stated they have indicated the Airport Commission's role is the Airport and items

surrounding the Airport within a 5-mile radius. He added the Subcommittee was created to deal with the regional issues. Mr. Gray asked if it was the desire of the Subcommittee to hear the regional aviation issues, and have the local issues to the Airport Commission. Councilman Wayne Ecton stated that was correct.

Councilman Littlefield asked which issues the Airport Commission and which should specifically handle by the Subcommittee. Mr. Gray responded that the original list of 30 items was broken down into 3 sections; local issues, regional issues, and national issues. Mr. Gray stated the regional issues included the regional airspace plan, the MAG/RASP plan, development at Sky Harbor, development at Williams-Gateway, the regional airport development issues, Luke Air Force Base military airspace issues, FAA southern hemisphere airspace plan, proposed north valley airport, ADOT flight property tax, Phoenix/Deer Valley Airport development, north practice area elimination, and the ADOT aviation needs study.

Mr. Gray advised the Subcommittee the national issues were the appropriations bill, Air 21 bill, and any aviation-related noise legislation. He added that some of these issues have already come and gone.

Mr. Gray noted the local issues that generally to the Commission are the Part 150 and Part 161 Study, which subsequently go to the Council for final approval, the Noise Reporting and Abatement Program, the Aviation Division Financial Plan, radar coverage, and the Airport Master Plan.

Councilman Littlefield was in agreement that the local issues do belong to the Airport Advisory Commission, and the Subcommittee needs to refocus on the regional aviation issues. Councilman Littlefield noted that the Mayor has indicated she will not be appointing a third member to the Subcommittee until after the election.

Councilman Ecton stated he is fine with what was said, however, if the Subcommittee does not feel that the Airport Advisory Commission is addressing the local issues appropriately, he sees nothing wrong with the Subcommittee providing some leadership and guidance if necessary. Councilman Littlefield agreed.

Item 3 – North Valley Radar Coverage

Mr. Gary provided a brief summary of what north valley radar coverage means and some of the associated tasks at hand. He added there are actually two radar discussions; the Williams-Gateway radar, and the new proposed ASR 11 antenna site at Union Hills and Central Avenue in Phoenix. Mr. Gray stated after extensive study by the FAA it has been determined that the Williams-Gateway radar will not provide adequate stability and accuracy for them to use it for radar coverage, however, it will still be used for the BRITE scope at Scottsdale.

Mr. Gray stated the ASR 11 is currently scheduled for construction in 2006. He added the Phoenix TRACON expects it to be operational when the new TRACON opens at Sky Harbor in 2006. However, FAA email correspondence indicates construction will start in 2006 and the radar will be operational in 2008. Mr. Gray stated at the last Phoenix Airspace Users Working Group (PAUWG) meeting he attended he indicated that that was unacceptable and he would be contacting Council and perhaps pursuing a different route to ensure that radar would be installed and operational at the same time. Mr. Gray added they have been working with the aviation staff at Phoenix and Mr. Steve Olson to see if they could move it up a level and obtain some Congressional support. Mr. Olson indicated their next step would be to discuss it with the FAA-Western Pacific Regional staff in Los Angeles and have it move forward from there.

Item 4 – Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Aviation System Plan (MAG/RASP)

Mr. Gray noted that Councilman Littlefield is the elected official appointed to the MAG/RASP group. He added he spoke to Mr. Harry Wolfe regarding the status of this program. Mr. Gray stated many of the technical committees have been eliminated, therefore, when the first plan came out no one reviewed it and before it went to the policymakers and there were many technical issues. It was then decided to have an informal technical group to review the plan and provide comments before submitting it to the policy group. Mr. Gray added it is now going to the Regional Council for a vote to officially re-form the technical committee this week. Councilman Littlefield added that it is important to look at the airspace issues and

not just ground issues regarding any regional aviation system plan. Mr. Gray added the consultant will be preparing a draft working paper in outline form to be provided to the technical committee addressing the issues brought up in the last meeting, and this paper should be out in a month. Mr. Gray advised it may be some time before they get to the point where they can bring it back to the policy committee to vote on. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding regional vs. airspace issues, the potential impact on airspace if Luke Air Force Base should close, and financial and economic planning and development of other area airports.

Item 5 – ADOT Regional Airspace Study

Mr. Gray advised the Subcommittee the state was going to take steps to address airspace issues. Councilman Littlefield added that was tried years ago and a committee was formed but no longer exists. Mr. Gray stated that was the governor's committee, which still exists, however, they do not meet. Mr. Gray added that ADOT has submitted an application to the FAA to do a combined airspace and land use study. He added they have not succeeded in getting FAA funding for that study. Mr. Gray stated they recently submitted a second application for land use only study with the thought that if the FAA cannot do the whole study identified in the first application, perhaps they could just do the landside portion. He added that ADOT representatives will be meeting with the FAA region in March to find out the status of the funding for their application request.

Mr. Gray stated that the state Aviation Fund is funded by jet and avgas tax, aircraft registration fees, etc., and not from the flight property tax. He added the flight property tax, which is what the airlines pay, the legislatures have been taking 50 percent of that money for the last five years. It was supposed to go back to aviation in 2005, the governor supports it, but the legislature still wants to divert the money for at least another two years. Councilman Littlefield provided information on the political background of the funding issues involved with regional aviation and the state committee involvement, stating they will probably not meet again or be a force.

Mr. Olson noted that the main focus of the state now in regards to regional aviation issues, is whether or not Luke Air Force Base will remain open. Mr. Gray added that a civil concern with that issue is the state is trying to do a lot of work to ensure the military is protected, which is valid. However, they may be focusing on that issue to the detriment of civilian aviation issues. Additional discussion ensued concerning airport development subject to military review, and the numbers related to types of air traffic such as commercial, general aviation, and military.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTS

Councilman Ecton stated he would like to receive a copy of the minutes sooner. Mr. Gray advised they are also posted on the website, however, he will ensure the Subcommittee receives the information in ample time.

Councilman Littlefield stated the Subcommittee will focus on the issues defined as regional, and expressed his anticipation that after the election the Mayor will appoint a third member to the Subcommittee.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Gray said he did not prepare a meeting schedule as he wanted to ask the Subcommittee what was their preference.

Councilman Littlefield stated until they have a third member, or a particular issue, since they are limited in their involvement that related to other entities, such as the FAA, ADOT, MAG/RASP, that he feels they should wait to meet until Councilman Ecton can come back from his meeting in Washington to report.

Councilman Ecton said he would like to have a meeting in March, and that it is still a good idea to have meetings and discuss the regional issues and how to get involved.

Mr. Gray stated the third Wednesday of March would be the 17th. Councilman Littlefield added the agenda for that meeting should include Councilman Ecton's report on his trip in early March. The Subcommittee also agreed they should work with Phoenix to press for resolution of the radar and airspace study funding.

Mr. Gray summarized by stating the next Subcommittee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in the Kiva at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.